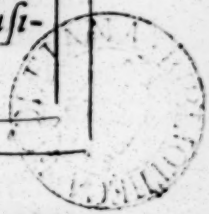
A brief account of the GRAMMAR-LECTURE, *in Kings-Head Court near the* Theater Royal, Drury-Lane; *Where Children are with great eaſe and ſpeed perfectly taught the Latine* Tongue, *without being ſlaviſhly put to needleſs torture, or endleſs trouble; and nothing is demanded for their Teaching, or for Books, till the buſineſs is Performed.*



WHereas divers Gentlemen, Citizens, and others, call frequently upon us, and either finde us not within, or at leaſt ſo buſie, as that we have not time to ſatisfie them about our Method &c. Concerning which they enquire: We have cauſed this rude and unpoliſht Sheet to be Printed, to which we refer them, and all others, at preſent, for ſatisfaction; which ſhall be given them as briefly, as plainly, and as fully, as the good old Axiome, *Artis eſt celare Artem*, will permit; for a ſecret which hath coſt us almoſt 30. Years Study, and the peruſal of all Authors whatſoever that have

writ on this ſubject, is not to be too far diſcovered to every body.

They may be pleaſed therefore to underſtand, that we are not over eagerly deſirous of too many Scholars at once, *Paucis contenti auditoribus*, taking but few at a time, and with our good will receiving none who are deeply ingaged in other Schooles; our deſign being to do good to Man-kind in general, and at the ſame time to do no harm to any particular Individual, by taking away his Scholars, or reflecting upon his way of Teaching, or the like.

Next, as for the Childrens coming but once or twice a Week, which ſome (who are great admirers of, and ſervants to blind cuſtome) will not bear with; they may pleaſe to take notice, that if need be, they may come oftner; thrice, four times, five times, ſix times a Week; but their coming will be only a needleſs trouble to themſelves and us; for we can with the ſame labour give them enough to ruminate upon for half a Week, as for half a Day: In ſhort, if Parents ſend their Children any whether to learn, let them ſend them thither where they ſhall be well taught, whether they ſtay a long time, or not (that's all one;) but if they ſend them only to be kept out of harms way ſo long, there are enough old Women, or ordinary mean Pedants, who will do their buſineſs for two pence a Week.

As for the Price, that is reaſonable, only alter-

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ing as the capacity of the Learner is quicker or ſlower; there being more or leſs pains to be taken with him accordingly.

Then as for the Method, they may pleaſe to know, that this buſineſs (ſo much wondred at, and thought impoſſible to be done, yet) is really performed by theſe means,

Firſt, By bringing the Grammer-Rules and Authors to the capacity of the Learners, and not ſcrewing and forcing their capacity to them.

Secondly, By teaching every particular Youth ſingly by himſelf (for certainty's ſake) all the Rules and Intrigues of the Language.

Thirdly, By giving them full liberty, as to the time and place of ſtudying; they hear the Lecture in few words, and then ruminate upon it *when* they will, and *where* they will, in the morning or afternoon, at home, or in the fields; but ſtay not to hinder one another by noiſe, childiſh fooleries, or the like.

Fourthly, By uſing them with all poſſible gentleneſs and lenity; there are no Rodds marching up and down the room, to fright them, and keep them in fear and bondage, all the while they are preſent; Such fear and dread neceſſarily hindering their effectual tending of their buſineſs, the removal thereof, on the other ſide, muſt much further their proficiency.

1 As to the First, 'Twere easie to prove most of the Rules, which are commonly taught Children, to be as hard to understand, as any Logick, or Metaphysick Lecture at *Oxford*, and the Authors put into their hands at first dash, to be as difficult as any they ever meet with afterwards; now how senseless and irrational this is, let any man judge: Those who have gone about to make new Grammers, they have only affronted the Canon, and rendred things hard and difficult before, more hard and more difficult: And why Irregular words must needs be pickt out to be the Examples of the Declensions and Conjugations; and why the Grammer Rules, and Memorial Verses, should be in Latine, which Language the Youth or Child is supposed not yet to understand, Wise persons cannot yet discover the reason: Give Children easie Rules, and easie Books, and then something will be done; but if we must for ever δαλευειν ὑποθεσει, and because Youth have all along been taught in a dull blundering way, therefore they must be taught so still; Knowing men will doubt, which is most to be pittied, the folly of the Teacher, or the misfortune of the Learner.

2 As for the Second, Children when entred into any School, are commonly put into some Class with others, and there take the same Part that others do, and the same Lesson that others

others do; and if they underſtand it, ſo; if not, there is no proviſion made for their help; Some things they learn over half a ſcore times, other things they learn not at all, or not ſo perfectly as to underſtand them; whereas (alas!) every Learner ſhould be taught the Fundamentalls by himſelf, and not take them by chance; for at that rate it may ſo happen, as that he may not attain them all his life; Give him the whole Scheme in his head, and then he will be able to goe on vigorouſly, comfortably and effectually, to make himſelf by degrees Maſter of the Language.

As to the Third, Children are children, and will be playing childiſh tricks, and hinder one another while together, not only by noiſe, but alſo by waggiſh geſtures and actions; to avoid which, they are to be together as little while as is poſſible, while they learn any thing; Indeed when they exerciſe themſelves in talking and diſcourſing *Latine*, that is anoher caſe, and we have our times to let them come, and alſo ſtay together long enough for that purpoſe. 3

For the Fourth, Something we ſhall add as to that Head likewiſe, though modeſty will not permit us to ſpeak what we could; Ingenuous Youths ſhould not be puniſht in ſuch a diſ-ingenuous manner as the cuſtome is in moſt Schools, eſpecially for no cauſe in the world, as commonly they are; *Delerant reges, plectuntur Achivi*, the fault is ſometimes in the Teacher, ſometimes in the way of teaching; but the poor children they are beaten for not underſtanding that, which 'twas impoſſible they ſhould undreſtand, having 4

ving not been told it at all (it may be) or at leaſt not in that manner as for them to comprehend it: 'Tis true, we know there are divers moſt excellent, ingenuous, diſcreet and learned perſons, who do uſe their Schollars in a noble and ingenuous way; only for fear of a thing call'd Κενῶν ἐν Κείμενα, they have not yet entred upon the Right Eaſie and Speedy way of teaching, which we much wonder at; (theſe mens perſons we love and reſpect, nay we highly eſteem and honour them; and ſhould any line here written reflect upon, or endamage them in the leaſt, we would recant all we have ſaid, and give over this whole buſineſs:) Others there are alſo of a lower ſphere, good, induſtrious, honeſt men, who bring up their Schollars in a kind and gentle way, and make no more uſe of their power of correction than juſt needs muſt; (theſe are to be commended and encouraged, and withall, ſhewn the right way of inſtructing Youth:) But in too many places we are ſure 'tis otherwiſe; Children being taken and beaten moſt barbarouſly, they know not why, or wherefore, nor never ſhall; We have often ſeen innocent, ingenuous, induſtrious Youths, when they have taken pains, as it had been for their lives, and ſtudied all day and all night, till 2, or 3, a Clock in the morning, yet next day they have been ſcourged 10, 16, 20, laſhes, when no reaſon could poſſibly be aſſigned, why they ſhould be ſo inhumanely uſed; and therefore the reaſon indeed, was only and meerly becauſe the roguy leacherous Pædagogue had a mind to whip them: Now of all Cruelties, Leacherous cruelty is the worſt, and woe to them who fall under it; But

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of this, as alſo of the Rogueries of ſome fluſtering Pedants, the World ſhall hear more at large ere long both in Proſe and Verſe; for, as ſome extravagant Perſons have one way of ſatisfying their luſts, others other ways: So

Some School-Maſters on the Boyes breeches
Curry their own heat and itches. Hudibr.

We are verily perſwaded, and have good and firme grounds to believe, that many take up that Calling, and continue in it to their old age, for that power's ſake which is moſt unjuſtly allowed them of correcting their Scholars, *when* and *how* they pleaſe; Now what a ſad thing it is for the ſame Perſon that delights in the execution, to be both Judge and Executioner, we need not ſay; To tell you what we think however, and what wiſer Men than we think likewiſe, 'twere far better that Learning periſht out of the Earth, than ſuch horrid cruelties ſhould be permitted, as are daily exerciſed in divers places; it would make your hair ſtand an end, and your very heart bleed (how hardy ſoever you are) to be a Spectator of what is done in that way, we know where. The common Objection to all that hath been diſcourſed upon this head, is, That Children will not learn without being beaten, and that ſoundly too ſometimes; To which we return this Anſwer, That if it be meant Univerſally, it is a down-right falſhood; there being many Children who really love ingenuity, love their Book, and will do whatſoever is ſet them to do with a words ſpeaking; but if indeed it be meant

meant of ſome particulars, it muſt be granted to be true; but then ſuch of whom 'tis true, were better be ſet to ſome other employment, and not be put almoſt a third part of their lives to continual ſlavery; for, to be kept always poring upon Books, which they hate, and to groan every day under the Birch, is in our opinion little better; and he at the Oare or Mines, is far the happier of the two: Some Parents indeed *will* have their Children to School; they *will* ſubject them to the humour of the Teacher, to be laſht, *Ad libitum plagoſi Orbilij*, juſt as thoſe poor deluded Heathen of old, they *would* ſacrifice their tender Infants to *Moloch*, and other Devils; we know not whether the Children have cauſe to thank them; nay, we know hundreds who do not thank them, but afterwards in their riper years make them wiſh with akeing hearts, they had followed the Poets advice,

Præconem facias vel Architectum.

This brief Account we deſire all parties concern'd, to accept of at preſent for their own eaſe and ours: And if any ignorant pragmatical Perſon finde fault with any thing here writ, truly we value it not; If any ſerious underſtanding Gentlemen be offended at any paſſage, we preſume upon their pardon, at long run, there being no juſt cauſe of offence given in the leaſt; We having wronged no body at all, but only in a noble and generous way (with ſome pains and more coſt) done our endeavour to have our *Engliſh* Youth no more abuſed, and the World no longer cheated.

FINIS.

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TOgether with this you will receive a Specimen of a moſt laborious and uſefull Undertaking recommended by the Teſtimony of many Eminent perſons, as deſerving encouragement from all ſuch as are lovers of Religion and Learning. Had the Compiler's Eſtate been equal to his Induſtry, he had needed no help to have brought it forth into the World: But ſince the computed Charge ſo much exceeds his abilities, it is neceſſary to deſire the moderate aids of others, that his Labours may be ſerviceable to the publick. Knowing therefore your ability to judge and your inclinations to incourage matters of this nature, it hath been thought fit in a ſpecial manner to recommend the promotion of this Work to your care, and to intreat you to be active in the furtherance of it by procuring the Subſcriptions of your neighbours and acquaintance, eſpecially thoſe of the Gentry and Miniſtry, upon the Conditions here propoſed: For which, beſides the ſatisfaction you will receive in doing ſo good a work, and the expreſſion of your affections to Religion and Learning, you ſhall have the grateſull acknowledgment of the Compiler, and of